



"Owned By Those We Serve"

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS • 1938-2018

POWER

Source

November 2018 Vol. 22 No. 11



Ag Safety Day Camps Held in Clovis and Santa Rosa

Farmers' Electric Cooperative recently had the privilege of participating in Progressive Agriculture Foundation's Ag Safety Day Camps in Curry County (Clovis) and Guadalupe County (Santa Rosa). The Clovis day camp was a two-day event with 3rd graders from the surrounding area attending. Santa Rosa hosted a one-day event for theirs and neighboring 3rd grade students.

Farmers' Electric personnel gave electrical safety demonstrations to the students with emphasis on overhead



Photo Courtesy of Guad. Co. Ext. Ofc.

power line contact and the associated dangers. Also covered in the demonstration was indoor electrical safety, electric generation, transmission, and distribution. The kids also learned about professional linemen's personal protective equipment (PPE) and their uses.

Along with the electrical safety demonstrations, the children were treated to other safety stations throughout the day such as, water safety, ATV safety, tractor safety, 911 and first aid, lawnmower safety, firearm safety, grain elevator safety, fire safety, and snake awareness. These were all-day events with the children receiving



Photo Courtesy of Guad. Co. Ext. Ofc.

a hot dog, chips, milk, apple, and ice cream sandwiches for lunch. Combined, the two events drew approximately 1,800 participants.

Farmers' Electric will make itself available for any organization, civic group, or school to present these demonstrations, free of charge. Call the cooperative today, (800) 445-8541, and ask to speak to someone in the Member Services Department.



Photo Courtesy of Guad. Co. Ext. Ofc.

Geothermal Heat Pump A Realistic Alternative

Heating and cooling accounts for approximately 50% of a home's energy consumption. So whether it is summer or winter or sometime between, it is important that a consumer be keenly aware of ways in which they can make their home more energy efficient.

Insulation is a good place to start. Insulating your attic to at least an R30 is wise given most heat loss or heat gain penetrates through the attic. R value is the capacity of an insulating material to resist heat flow. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating power. To reach R30, one would need to lay approximately 10" of batting or blow-in approximately 12" of loose-fill fiber. Farmers' Electric offers a cash-back rebate for members who add insulation to their attics. Call today for more details.

Another place to look for savings is with your heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system (HVAC). The modern air conditioner was invented by Willis Carrier in 1902 for use in a print shop. While they have become more efficient, reliable, and common in homes, they work the same as the original. They all have an indoor coil that cools and removes moisture from the home's air. An outdoor coil dumps heat from the house outside. It takes energy to force heat to flow from inside the house where it's cool to the hot outdoors. On the heating side and with the advent of the heat pump, through a reversing switch, the unit does just the opposite in winter time and helps heat

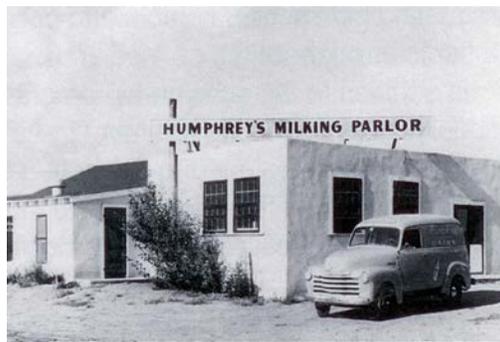
see GEO on PAGE 4

Manager's Message...**Lance Adkins, GM****“Early Days” - Final Chapter**

As a brief recap from the past four articles on the early days of Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC), readers will recall a very busy first-year. Organized on December 20, 1937, FEC energized the first 100-mile line segment on November 30, 1938 and celebrated the first annual meeting of the membership in January 1939 with 70 members registered.

In this final installment of “early days,” minutes of the Board meeting held in February 1939 reflect there were 160 active accounts including homes, businesses, and agriculture. In fact, one of FEC's early commercial/agricultural enterprises to “electrify” was Humphrey's Milking Parlor, serving the Clovis area from 1910 to 1960. Today FEC serves more than 13,000 active accounts, including some 20 locally owned and operated dairy farms. Agricultural production continues to provide a tremendous positive economic impact throughout the FEC service area through direct and indirect employment and commerce, made possible through rural electrification.

The February 1939 minutes also reflect receipt of the first wholesale power bill from Texas New Mexico Power, a whopping \$163.97. In comparison, the wholesale power costs for January of this year were just under \$1.9 million and a summer peak-season power bill exceeding \$2.2 million. In the early days, electricity in our area was generated by plants that burned fuel oil and natural gas. Today, FEC wholesale power supply is comprised of energy generated by coal, natural gas, wind, solar, and hydroelectric, with “renewables” comprising roughly 30 percent of total energy purchased. FEC expects renewable energy resources will continue to increase as renewable technologies are increasingly cost-competitive with fossil-fuel resources.



In July 1939, minutes record that FEC is experiencing outages related to thunderstorms and lightning. Board discussions reflect “dissatisfaction caused by interruption of service cannot be measured in dollars and cents” and to request that REA engineers “devise some plan to make transformers safer from lightning.” Unfortunately, dealing with lightning remains a significant challenge, particularly across FEC service area where power poles are often the tallest object on the plains. After 80 years, thunderstorms, lightning, and other weather events, continue to be the most significant cause of total annual outage hours for FEC and for utilities across the United States. While burying lines underground is often the most effective solution, at a cost of more than four or five times the cost of overhead, underground lines are not cost effective in most rural areas.

Board meeting minutes from September 1939 record that new members continue to be added, members were purchasing more electric appliances, and that the “average” household electric consumption was 63 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month. Look-

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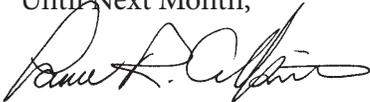
FINAL CHAPTER *from* PAGE 2

ing back at the rates established in September 1938, the average bill was \$4.15. While that sounds very low, considering the purchasing power of a dollar in 1939 (inflation), that would be roughly \$75 today, or almost \$1.20 per kWh. Today, the average residential member uses roughly 865 kWh per month, at a cost of \$97, not including tax, or roughly 11 cents per kWh.

Over the past 80 years FEC's service area has grown to more than 11,000 square miles, crisscrossed by more than 4,300 miles of high-voltage line, serving more than 13,000 active accounts, an average of 3 meters per mile of line. As FEC moves into the future, the costs to upgrade and replace aging infrastructure will be greater than the costs to extend service to new members.

Hope you've enjoyed this walk down memory lane.

Until Next Month,



ATTENTION: IRRIGATION CONSUMERS
SUBJECT: IRRIGATION ANNUAL
MINIMUM CHARGES

In accordance with Farmers' Electric Cooperative's irrigation rate schedule, certain annual minimum charges apply to all irrigation accounts. Your original minimum charges were calculated through a contract with the Cooperative based on the cost of line extension to the irrigation load. Upon expiration of the contract, the horsepower on that account determines the annual minimum at the rate of \$20.00 per horsepower, but not less than \$110.00 for single-phase service, and not less than \$165.00 for three-phase service.

Under the irrigation rate schedule, consumers have one calendar year, (approximately December 20 through December 20 of the following year), in which to use the annual minimum charges. The December billing will reflect the remaining charges, if any.

If you have any questions regarding the annual minimum charges for your irrigation account(s), please contact the Cooperative's Billing Department at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541.

Attention

Protection from winter shut-off begins November 15, 2018. To avoid potential disconnection of services, please contact the Human Services Department for eligibility information for the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at 800-283-4465. Your service will not be disconnected from November 15, 2018 through March 15, 2019, if you qualify for LIHEAP and have no past due amount or are making the agreed upon payments.

Atención

Protección contra la interrupción de servicio de invierno comienza el 15 de Noviembre del 2018. Para evitar la posibilidad de desconexión. Favor de ponerse en contacto con el Departamento de Servicios Humanos para informarse acerca de los requisitos de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP) al 1-800-283-4465, Su servicio no será desconectado el 15 de Noviembre del 2018 a 15 de Marzo del 2019 si califica para el Programa de Asistencia Energética de Bajos Ingresos y no tiene saldo atrasado ni a fallado con su acuerdo de pagos fijos.

Youth Tour 2019

In 2019, FEC will again sponsor two area high school Juniors (summer after Junior year) on the week-long, Government in Action Youth Tour in Washington, D. C. Please call 800-445-8541 for more details on this exciting opportunity! We promise this will be a trip of a lifetime!

Energy Efficiency Radio Program!

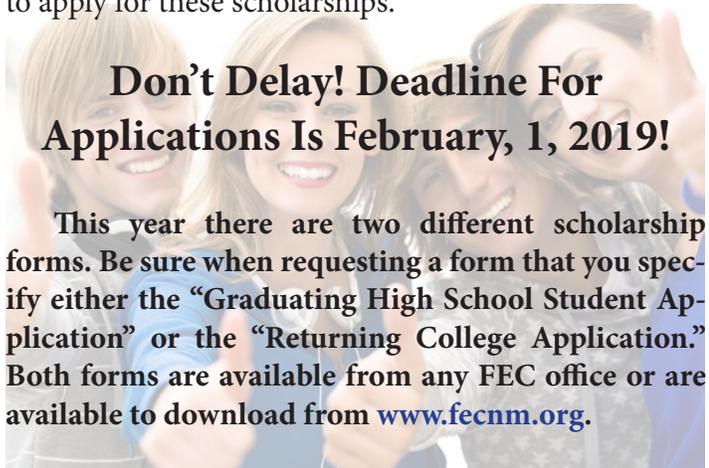
Listen to the "Morning Buzz with the Energy Guys" every Saturday morning at 7:00 on KCLV 99.1 FM and again Sunday morning at 10:00 on KCLV "Talk" 1240 AM. We also have a Facebook page called "Morning Buzz with the energy Guys" where you can catch up on previous shows and find info on energy efficiency.



- Tips on Saving Energy and Money
- Electric Safety
- Mail Bag Section

Scholarship Applications Available Now...

Farmers' Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers' Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.



Don't Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 1, 2019!

This year there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the "Graduating High School Student Application" or the "Returning College Application." Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

The Farmers' Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals.

Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2018, the foundation has awarded 1203 scholarships totaling \$849,730.00.

GEO from PAGE 1

your home. However, the greater the temperature difference between inside and outside, the more energy it takes to reach your desired comfort level.

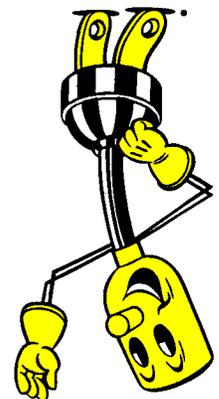
If you are considering a new HVAC system for your home, you have a lot of choices. One significant opportunity for reducing the cost of operating your HVAC system is to install a geothermal or ground-source heat pump. Geothermal heat pumps take advantage of the constant year-round temperature of about 60°F that is just a few feet below the ground's surface using either vertical loops. These loops are designed to work through thermodynamics with an exchange of heat or cool depending on the season. Because the temperature of the ground is cooler in the summer than the air, the system doesn't have to work as hard to cool your home and saves you energy and money. The same system can also reduce your heating costs. Even when the air temperature is below freezing, the ground is much warmer. Most geothermal systems can also heat water for free through a desuperheater.



Geothermal systems are more expensive to install and they should only be installed by a skilled and trained technician. Currently, there is a 30% New Mexico state tax credit and a 30% federal tax credit available to those who choose to install geo systems. This combined 60% tax credit makes this type of system very attractive – not to mention that it consumes up to 70% less energy to cool and heat your home! Additionally, Farmers' Electric Cooperative (FEC) has a very appealing rebate in place, offering our members a \$1,000/ton cash-back rebate (\$5,000 max per home) to go geo!

For more information about this and other efficient HVAC systems, call FEC today and ask to speak to someone in Member Services.

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